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Title: Need to release a commemorative postage stamp in honour of Shri Veer Surendra Sai, a great hero of freedom movement, on his bi-Centenary - Laid.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR): The nation is observing this year the 150th year of the First War of Independence. A number of programmes are being organized to commemorate the occasion. Years before 1857, a great patriot Veer Surendra Sai launched a fierce struggle against the British Raj in Sambalpur in Orissa which has become an integral part of the history of the Freedom Movement of the country. Veer Surendra Sai started his armed struggle against the Britishers in 1827 only at the age of 19. Being an efficient organizer and a war strategist, he organized the tribal community of presently Orissa and Chhattisgarh States and infused spirit of nationalism amongst them. He was imprisoned by the Britishers in the Hazaribagh Jail along with many other freedom fighters of those days and during the Sepoy mutiny when the Hazaribagh Jail was broken, Veer Surendra Sai escaped from the jail and again organized the movement of revolutionaries in Sambalpur area to wage second phase of his struggle against the Britishers. In his struggle against the foreign rule many of his family members were either killed or imprisoned. Veer Surendra Sai was captured by the Britishers fraudulently and sentenced to life imprisonment. He was subjected to continuous torture inside the Ashurgarh Jail due to which he lost his eyesight in the Jail. He died inside the jail at the age of 80. During this long freedom struggle he suffered a total imprisonment of 36 years in two phases, which is unprecedented in any freedom struggle of the world. Nothing remarkable so far has been done to remember one of the greatest heroes of our freedom struggle nor any step has been taken to give him proper recognition and posthumous honour. His 200th birth anniversary falls on 23 January 2008. I would request the Central Government to commemorate this occasion by releasing a special postage stamp in his honour and organize function at the national level to pay homage to this great hero of our Freedom Movement.